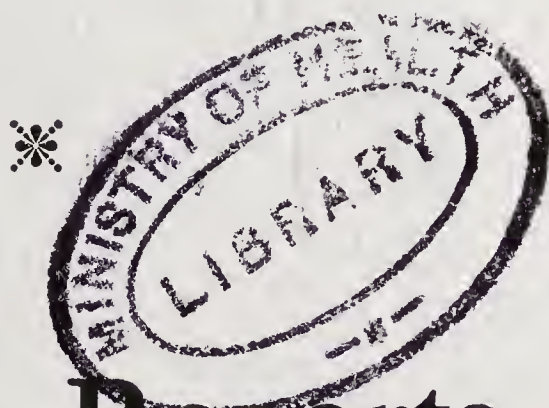


RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF FLAXTON



Annual Reports

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

**SURVEYOR AND CHIEF
SANITARY INSPECTOR**

for the year

1949

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Rural District Council of Flaxton.

Chairman :

J. R. ROBINSON, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

J. SHARP, Esq., C.C.

(Ex-officio Members of the Health Committee).

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor H. MILNE, (*Chairman*)

„ F. M. BEANLAND

„ H. B. BROOK, J.P.

„ C. H. A. EASTWOOD

„ G. FOSTER

„ L. HODGSON

„ J. S. IMISON

„ F. J. PULLEYN

„ G. H. STIRK

„ C. R. THORP

„ W. H. SIMPSON

Rural District Council of Flaxton.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

	<i>Medical Officer of Health :</i>
January—May	A. W. RIDDOLLS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., (<i>Part-time</i>).
June—November	F. D. ROSS-KEYT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., (<i>Whole-time</i>).
December	A. W. RIDDOLLS, (<i>Acting</i>).

Senior Sanitary Inspector (Whole-time) :
L. B. PARKER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Certificates held :

Royal Sanitary Institute, as
(a) Sanitary Inspector.
(b) Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
City and Guilds of London Finalist.
Certificates Building Construction, Technical Drawing, etc.
Instructor, A.R.P.S.,

Other Appointments held :

Surveyor.
Inspector under the Petroleum Acts.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors (Whole-time) :

D. NURSE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Certificates held :

Royal Sanitary Institute, as
(a) Sanitary Inspector.
(b) Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

G. A. W. HEPPELL, M.C., C.R.S.I., A.I.Hsg.

Certificates held :

Royal Sanitary Institute, as Sanitary Inspector.
Institute of Housing, in Housing Management.

Clerical Staff :

J. W. MOOR (*Chief Clerk*)
R. HUNTLEY (*General Clerk*)
J. W. MEDD (*General Clerk*)
Miss J. SHEPHERD (*Shorthand Typist*)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1949.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Flaxton Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Contrary to my expectations, I again find myself as your Acting Medical Officer of Health at the end of the year 1949, and I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report for this year.

The illness of your Medical Officer, Dr. Ross-Keyt has been most unfortunate and as he is not sufficiently well to be consulted in the preparation of the Report I am taking the liberty of dealing with it for the whole year.

The health of the district during the year has been well maintained and compares favourably with the standard of health we generally associate with this district. The statistical data set out later in this Report also shows that the general standard compares very favourably with the standard of health throughout the country.

The incidence of infectious disease is not noteworthy except that measles and whooping cough have been unusually troublesome.

The services in the area continue to be well maintained and the commencement of work on the new water scheme will surely mark the beginning of the end of our water problems.

The need for more facilities for the disposal of sewage in the more rural parishes continues and it is to be hoped that, although the Ministry of Health will be faced with a formidable problem and the Government with a heavy burden of expenditure, approval to the schemes at present before the Ministry will soon be forthcoming.

It is pleasing to see the continued progress that is being made in the provision of housing accommodation. No doubt it is mere repetition to say that housing continues to be a very vital and important matter wherever health is concerned. It is also repetition to say that much illness is traceable to unsatisfactory living conditions and ignoring the very important element of human happiness, or lack of it, due to this cause, we must repeat however often it may be necessary the need and urgency of sufficient and adequate housing.

The population of your area continues to increase and whilst the large increase in the last year or two is more due to amendment of statistical figures than actual increases there is no doubt that the population grows year by year. I understand that applications for houses continue to be received at a greater rate than the number of houses built although such good progress is being made in the erection and completion of new accommodation. I know from my experience of the interest and enthusiasm of your Council in this matter and your constant endeavours to take the fullest advantage of all facilities offered by the Government to make available the maximum accommodation that I have no need to stress the necessity to continue the splendid efforts which you have already made.

My work with your Council during this period of my temporary re-appointment has been of great interest to me. It has been a pleasure to attend your meetings and work with your Council and also with your officials. I have to thank both the Council and the officials for the courtesy and help which I have always received and which I have appreciated very much.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. RIDDOLLS.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

Social Conditions.

The Rural District of Flaxton lies in the North Riding of the County of York. Five Rural Districts and the City of York abut its boundaries, Easingwold to the North and North-West, Malton to the North and North-East, Pocklington on the East, Derwent on the South-East, the City of York on the South and West and Nidderdale on the West and South-West.

The area is largely situate on the Plain of York stretching to the foothills of the Wolds on the East and the foothills of the Howardian hills on the North. The district is, therefore, mainly quite flat in character.

Adequate sources of water supply are not available within the district, there being no gathering grounds or springs and borehole water is unsuitable. Water supplies, therefore, are purchased in bulk.

Sewerage in the area is costly in so far that frequent pumping is necessary due to the lack of natural fall in the land.

There are 24 parishes in the area, which are mainly agricultural in character, with certain parishes which are nearer to the City of York being largely residential.

There is a certain amount of industrial development in the area, comprising scientific instrument making, tanneries, brick-yards, light industries such as printing, cabinet making and some converted hangers which are being used for the making of prefabricated components for housing, upholstery and engineering components.

The industry in the area supplies employment for a large number of residents and also for many residents in the City of York, and conversely many residents in the area find employment in the City.

Statistics.

The vital statistics for the year are given in accordance with the arrangements and requirements of the Ministry of Health. Statistics are also given for previous years for comparative purposes.

The Death Rate is again appreciably lower than the average for England and Wales and it is, in fact, the lowest for five years with the exception of 1948. I think that this may be a little misleading, however, in that the estimate of population has been amended and this results in a rather more favourable figure.

The return of causes of death shows no tendency to increase in any one direction and although there were 11 deaths more during the year than in 1948 this number is spread over various causes.

The Birth Rate has fallen during the year and we are again below the average rate for the whole country. The birth rate for this district fell below the average for England and Wales for the first time for many years in 1948. The birth rate for the country has again fallen from previous years and as I remarked in my comments last year this is following the normal and not unexpected trend.

The number of still births is in no way a cause of the lower birth rate. The total number of still births, as will be seen from the table, is 5 for the year, being half the number for the previous year.

The Infant Mortality Rate, that is the deaths of children under the age of one year, is appreciably higher than during the preceding year. The causes of death have been very carefully checked and it is evident that they give no indication of any failure in the health services, a large proportion of the causes being due to pneumonia and asphyxiation or respiratory failure.

There was no Maternal mortality in the area during the year. The figure is not usually high but it is pleasing to note a year free from any death.

The area of the district is 36,254 acres and the Registrar General's estimate of the resident population at mid-year is 20,800 (including non-civilians).

The number of dwelling houses according to the Rate Book is 5,193.

The sum represented by a penny rate at the year ending 31st March, 1950, was £424 15s. 0d. and the Total Rateable Value £104,873 10s. 0d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
1946 ..	Legitimate ..	195	150	345	
	Illegitimate..	9	10	19	364
1947 ..	Legitimate ..	193	175	368	
	Illegitimate..	7	8	15	383
1948 ..	Legitimate ..	151	146	297	
	Illegitimate..	9	9	18	315
1949 ..	Legitimate ..	158	132	290	
	Illegitimate..	8	7	15	305

The **Birth Rate** per thousand of the estimated resident population of the district is 14.66.

Still Births :		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
1946 ..	Legitimate ..	4	3	7	
	Illegitimate..	—	1	1	8
1947 ..	Legitimate ..	6	5	11	
	Illegitimate..	—	1	1	12
1948 ..	Legitimate ..	5	3	8	
	Illegitimate..	1	1	2	10
1949 ..	Legitimate ..	0	5	5	
	Illegitimate..	0	0	0	5

The figure of **Still Births** per thousand of the estimated resident population of the district is 0.24.

Deaths :					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1946..	..	..	..	..	81	93	174
1947..	..	..	..	..	90	83	173
1948..	..	..	..	..	95	88	183
1949..	..	..	..	..	97	97	194

The **Death Rate** per thousand of the estimated resident population of the district is 9.31.

Maternal Mortality :

1946 ..	..	Puerperal causes ..	..	..	1
		Rate per 1,000 births	..	..	2.74
1947 ..	..	Nil.			
1948 ..	..	Maternal causes ..	..	..	1
		Rate per 1,000 births	..	..	3.08
1949 ..	..	Nil.			

Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year) :

	1946	1947	1948	1949
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	19.23	31.33	34.92	55.73
Legitimate Infants per 1,000				
Live Legitimate Births ..	16.51	32.60	33.67	51.72
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000				
Live Illegitimate Births ..	52.73	nil.	55.55	133.33

Causes of Death

				1946		1947		1948		1949	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1.	Typhoid & Paratyphoid										
	Fevers			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever ..			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough			1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5.	Diphtheria			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory										
	System			4	4	—	4	2	3	2	2
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis..			—	1	—	2	3	—	1	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases			—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
9.	Influenza			—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
10.	Measles.. .. .			—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and										
	Polioencephalitis ..			—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph										
	(M) and uterus (F) ..			1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach and										
	Duodenum			2	4	1	1	5	5	5	1
15.	Cancer of Breast			—	4	—	2	—	6	—	3
16.	Cancer of all other sites			6	5	10	10	14	5	12	6
17.	Diabetes			1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
18.	Intercranial Vascular Lesions			7	17	12	11	6	9	10	12
19.	Heart Diseases			25	25	29	23	31	27	30	30
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory										
	System			4	3	4	2	3	8	3	7
21.	Bronchitis			4	5	9	—	6	2	4	1
22.	Pneumonia			1	3	3	2	1	1	2	1
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases			3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
24.	Ulcer of Stomach and										
	Duodenum			3	1	1	—	1	—	1	—
25.	Diarrhoea (under two years)			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis			—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases			—	1	3	2	1	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis			3	2	1	—	3	1	4	4
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abortion										
	Sepsis			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes ..			—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Premature Birth			3	—	1	3	1	1	—	2
32.	Congenital mal: birth inj:										
	infant dis:			1	2	3	4	7	2	3	4
33.	Suicide			2	2	1	—	1	—	—	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents ..			2	—	3	3	1	—	2	—
35.	Other Violent Causes ..			2	3	2	2	1	2	3	3
36.	All Other Causes			7	10	5	7	6	10	9	17
Totals				81	93	90	83	95	88	97	97
Grand Totals ..				174		173		183		194	

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE RATES.

Birth Rate :	1937	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
England & Wales	14.90	16.10	19.10	20.50	17.90	16.70
Flaxton R.D.C. . .	18.40	20.76	20.48	23.15	15.83	14.66
Death Rate :						
England & Wales	12.40	11.40	11.50	12.00	10.80	11.70
Flaxton R.D.C. . .	9.80	10.90	9.78	10.46	8.19	9.31
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) :						
England & Wales	58.00	46.00	43.00	41.00	34.00	32.00
Flaxton R.D.C. . .	54.40	37.73	19.23	31.33	34.92	55.73
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Total Births) :						
England & Wales	3.65	1.79	1.43	1.17	1.02	0.98
Flaxton R.D.C. . .	3.89	Nil	2.74	Nil	3.08	Nil

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Details of officers are listed at the beginning of the Report. No changes occurred in the staff other than that due to the illness of Dr. Ross-Keyt, already referred to.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations of milk, water and effluents are carried out for the Council by the County Pathologist at Northallerton and Messrs. T. Fairley and Partner of Leeds. The County Pathologist and Dr. S. Goodman Platts are both very helpful in examining many specimens on behalf of the Council.

Ambulance.

Under the National Health Service Act the ambulance service previously operated by the Council is now in the hands of the North Riding County Council. Perhaps the only comment that need be made in this Report is to remind the Council that the ambulance station serving the area is situate at Haxby and that the service is obtained by telephoning York 8181 or 8189 day or night.

There is no evidence of any complaint as to the operation of the service since its transfer. On the other hand there is no evidence to suppose that the service now provided is an improvement upon the service which your Council previously operated.

Ante-Natal Clinics.—

- (a) Recreation Hall, Wigginton—
Alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
- (b) Folk Hall, New Earswick.
Alternate Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

District Nurses.

Clifton Without and Rawcliffe.

Nurse Southam, 26, Melton Avenue.
Tel. : York 54714.

Haxby, Wigginton, Skelton and Lillings Ambo.
Nurse Lealman, Station Road, Haxby.
Tel. : York 8233.

Huntington, New Earswick and Earswick.

Nurse Atkinson, 1, Rowan Place, New Earswick.
Tel. : York 8280.

Osballdwick, Sand Hutton, Heworth, Buttercrambe, Bossall,
Stockton-on-Forest, Claxton, Harton, Murton, Holtby,
Warthill, Upper Helmsley and Gate Helmsley.

Nurse Fox, 18, Galtres Road, Stockton Lane, Heworth,
York. *Tel.* : York 53449.

Strensall, Towthorpe and Flaxton.

Nurse McGregor, Strensall. *Tel.* : Strensall 289.

Domestic Help Service.

Arrangements can be made through the County Area Health Office, Manor Road, Easingwold. *Tel.* : Easingwold 324.

Infant Welfare Centres.—

- (a) Recreation Hall, Wigginton—
Alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
- (b) Folk Hall, New Earswick—
Alternate Wednesdays at 2 p.m.
- (c) Parish Hall, Strensall—
First Thursday in month at 2-30 p.m.
- (d) Social Hall, Huntington Road—
Each Wednesday at 1-30 p.m.
- (e) Memorial Hall, Huntington—
Alternate Wednesdays at 2 p.m.
- (f) Village Hall, Stockton-on-Forest—
Alternate Fridays at 2 p.m.

Maternity Hospitals.

Admissions arranged by a person's own Doctor. Booking clinic held each Friday at 9 a.m. at 24, St. Saviourgate, York.

Mental Health Clinics.

North Riding Mental Hospital, Clifton. Thursdays at 2-30 p.m. by appointment.

York County Hospital, Monkgate, York. Mondays at 2 p.m. and Fridays at 2 p.m. by appointment.

Registrar of Births and Deaths.

Mr. R. G. Denton, 2, Rose Rae Terrace, Station Road, Haxby, York.

Hours : Haxby, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7 p.m.
62a, Bootham, York. Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 6-7 p.m.

Skin Clinic.

Clinics are held at the City General Hospital, Haxby Road, York, every afternoon between 1-30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Tuberculosis Clinic.

Clinics are held at 11, Castlegate, York, on the second and fourth Thursday in each month at 10 a.m.

V.D. Clinic.

Clinics are held at the York County Hospital as follows :—

Males : Mondays, 2 to 4 p.m. ; Thursdays, 5 to 7 p.m. ; Fridays, 10 to 11 a.m.

Females and Children : Tuesdays, 2 to 4 p.m. ; Wednesdays, 12-30 to 1-30 p.m. ; Fridays, 5 to 7 p.m.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Services.

In view of the commencement made by your Council upon the scheme of water supply which is designed to make a mains supply available to every inhabited house in the area, there is little in this respect upon which I need comment.

There has been considerable hardship and a great deal of risk again taken during the year in the consumption of water in the more rural parts of your district and, although for some years

your Council have served by piped supplies almost 90% of the population, the remaining 10% have been faced with some very real and appreciable difficulties.

It would seem that by the time the Annual Report for the coming year is published these problems will have ceased to exist except in those cases where the owners or occupiers have failed to avail themselves of the service your Council have made such strenuous efforts to provide.

Sewerage.

Sewerage in your area is unchanged except that the Council have had a Public Inquiry held by the Ministry of Health into the proposals to install a sewerage scheme and sewage disposal plant for the combined parishes of Lilling and Sheriff Hutton. At the end of the year the result of this Inquiry was not known.

That this scheme and other contemplated is urgently required is beyond dispute.

There is no doubt that statistically your Council have achieved a great deal in so far that almost 80% of the properties in your area are satisfactorily provided with sewers and sewage disposal plant. On the other hand the rural villages must have an improved system of removing foul waste from the habitations without the present dangers of open-jointed pipes and sewage polluted watercourses.

The provision of proper sewerage would enable an attempt to be made to convert the many privies and pail closets which still exist, and I would again draw your attention to the need for action to be taken in connection with the parishes of Flaxton, Harton, Claxton, Sand Hutton, Gate Helmsley, Holtby, Warthill, Stockton-on-Forest and Towthorpe.

The problem which has been present in these parishes for many years will increase with the more liberal use of water following the installation of piped services. The Ministry of Health should be urged and pressed to approve the scheme for these villages and every effort should be made to obtain an early start to this work.

Closet Accommodation.

The conversion of closet accommodation still proceeds very slowly. Including the number of conversions which have taken place during the year there are still some 650 pail closets or privies. This represents quite a small percentage of the total properties in the area and, of course, quite a number of the houses with this type of accommodation cannot be converted and are unlikely to

be converted for the simple reason that it will never be possible to sewer the area to such an extent as to make the service available to them, although in certain cases, where ample land is available, conversion might be effected if some improvement to the means of sewage disposal to the individual properties is arranged. It is very desirable that this type of accommodation should be reduced to the lowest possible number.

Rivers and Streams.

There are a few cases of pollution of the rivers and streams which have been noted during the year which are under consideration and in respect of which consultations have taken place with the Internal Drainage Boards and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Some industrial wastes present a difficult problem and there is no doubt that there is in this area, as in other areas, a tendency for the interests of industry and public health to be somewhat at variation.

Public Cleansing.

The direct labour scheme of refuse removal which serves some 85% of your population has now operated for a little more than a full year. The organisation appears to have stood the test of time and there is no doubt at all that to all intents and purposes the many complaints which were received under the old scheme of collection by private contract have been eliminated.

It is a very desirable object to bring into this scheme all the villages not now served including as far as possible the isolated properties where their grouping justified this being done.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites licensed in the area and although your Council are confronted with the problem of campers and the establishment of caravans, etc., I do not think I need comment further under this heading other than to say that the uncontrolled and indiscriminate stationing of caravans and temporary dwellings can be very undesirable and that the keen control exercised by your Council in this direction should not be relaxed.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in your Council's area although there is a certain amount of paddling and bathing in the three rivers in and bounding your district. I do not think for various reasons that this is altogether desirable but so far as I can see it would be most difficult, if not impossible, to prevent.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of infectious diseases in your area during the year have been rather lower than in previous years with the exception of measles and whooping cough. There were only two cases of poliomyelitis during the year and in neither were there any circumstances pointing to the source of infection.

The outbreak of measles and whooping cough was very severe. The incidence generally speaking throughout the country was higher. Nevertheless there seems little doubt that the bulk of these cases can be attributed to direct infection by contact, and I feel that once again emphasis should be placed upon the fact that much of this kind of illness can be avoided if parents are more careful and considerate of others. There seems to be a growing tendency to indifference in matters of this kind and this, I believe, is a tendency which should be kept under careful observation.

There have been no cases of diphtheria at all during the year. This is the first time so far as our records show that we have had a year completely free. The disease does appear to have been steadily declining for a number of years and there is little doubt that immunisation has played an important part. The immunisation arrangements are now in the hands of the County Council and no figures are available as to the number of cases dealt with during the year.

Incidence of, and Deaths from, Notifiable Diseases.

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED										DEATHS
	Under 1	1 +	3 +	5 +	10 +	15 +	25 +	45 +	65 +	Total	
Smallpox										nil	
Scarlet Fever		6	6	22	4	4				42	
Diphtheria										nil	
Enteric Fever (incl. Paratyphoid)										nil	
Puerperal Pyrexia										nil	
Pneumonia										nil	
Erysipelas						2		6	4	12	
Cerebro-spinal Fever					1	1				2	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum										nil	
Dysentery										nil	
Malaria										nil	
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio- encephalitis	2									2	
Encephalitis Lethargica										nil	
Measles	15	61	84	167	18	1	2			348	
Whooping Cough	17	37	33	32	3					122	1

Comparative incidence of Infectious Diseases.

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	33	30	43	61	42
Diphtheria	11	3	5	3	—
Enteric Fever	—	2	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	1	3	5	—
Erysipelas	6	5	3	5	12
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	1	3	3	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	1	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	1	3	—	2
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	166	16	203	54	348
Whooping Cough	80	49	55	46	122

Tuberculosis.

The incidence of tuberculosis has fortunately fallen very considerably during the year under review. The preponderance of cases this year were, as usual, of the respiratory type. The growth of the disease is largely due to the spread of infection by respiratory cases.

There is no doubt that more recent methods have enabled many cases to be diagnosed which previously might never have come to light. Apart from the difficulties associated with isolation, to which I have previously referred, it is most unfortunate that these cases which are diagnosed in their early stages cannot receive earlier hospital treatment. There are many difficulties in the way of this, ranging from shortage of beds to inadequacy of staff, but if some improvement could be effected in this direction it might result in a considerably reduced number of new cases.

With regard to the non-respiratory cases, the effective pasteurisation of milk supplies, other than those from certified tubercle-free herds, would result in a further reduction in the incidence of this type of disease.

The gradual improvement of housing conditions will help to check the further spread of tuberculosis and your Council's policy of giving careful consideration to the re-housing of families suffering from tuberculosis where re-housing would result in improved conditions is most commendable.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1 to 5 years	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years	..	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years	..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 years	..	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
35 to 45 years	..	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 years	..	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	..	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
65 yrs. and upwards		2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	..	9	4	2	3	2	2	1	0

Comparative Rates of Tuberculosis.

Age Periods		New Cases			Deaths		
		Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Total	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Total
1945	..	11	4	15	8	1	9
1946	..	19	6	25	8	0	8
1947	..	18	5	23	4	0	4
1948	..	27	14	41	5	1	6
1949	..	13	5	18	4	1	5

Food Poisoning.

There has been no outbreak of food poisoning during the year and only one case of suspected food poisoning was reported during the year. This was traced to an outbreak in Hull due to food consumed at a reception.

Information as to mild cases of food poisoning, is however, very difficult to obtain, but I feel that on the whole the position is reasonably satisfactory.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for 1949.

To the Chairman and members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit a report for the year 1949, briefly summarising the work and activities of the Council so far as they affect the department of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

The year has been one of steady progress with some few notable achievements upon which your Council are to be commended.

I am again grateful to the Council for the courtesy and forbearance which has always been shown to me and for the assistance and interest of the staff employed in my department. I would also like to express my appreciation of the co-operation of your staff in the departments of the Clerk and Financial Officer without which it would be so difficult to maintain or achieve progress.

I trust that the information contained in this Report will prove to be of value to your Council as a record of your District and of interest as a reference to the work and efforts of your staff as carried out under your instructions.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

L. PARKER,

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

STATISTICS.

The following table sets out the parishes comprising your area together with the acreage, the number of dwelling-houses and the estimated population as at the 31st December, 1949.

The Council will note that the Registrar General has again submitted an estimated figure of the population which shows an increase upon the figure for the previous year.

The second table gives the actual average number of persons per house according to the Census figures between 1901 and 1939, and the estimated number in 1949.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Dwelling-houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
Bossall-with-Buttercrambe ..	2691 ..	34 ..	127
Claxton	838 ..	44 ..	165
Clifton Without ..	972 ..	959 ..	3602
Earswick	1111 ..	72 ..	272
Flaxton	1865 ..	93 ..	350
Gate Helmsley ..	497 ..	50 ..	190
Harton	2004 ..	24 ..	91
Haxby	2206 ..	619 ..	2326
Heworth Without ..	854 ..	154 ..	579
Holtby	901 ..	30 ..	115
Huntington	1850 ..	954 ..	3583
Lillings Ambo ..	1769 ..	49 ..	186
Murton	844 ..	114 ..	419
New Earswick ..	784 ..	616 ..	2315
Osbaldwick	645 ..	279 ..	1039
Rawcliffe	784 ..	271 ..	1010
Sand Hutton	2242 ..	48 ..	181
Skelton	2428 ..	108 ..	408
Stockton-on-Forest ..	3268 ..	144 ..	542
Strensall	2909 ..	324 ..	1219
Towthorpe	1075 ..	35 ..	131
Upper Helmsley ..	833 ..	12 ..	47
Warthill	1004 ..	47 ..	177
Wigginton	1880 ..	113 ..	416
Total	36254 ..	5193 ..	19500

Estimated Number of Persons per Dwelling-house.

1901 Census ..	4.70	persons per house
1911 Census ..	4.39	„
1921 Census ..	4.29	„
1931 Census ..	3.83	„
1939 Census ..	3.75	„ (Nat. Registration)
1949 Estimated..	3.755	„

Water Supplies.

Tables are appended below showing the source and nature of water supplies to the various parishes in the area and the number of properties and population served. The percentage of the total population served by piped supplies, the number of samples taken for analysis and examples of analytical reports upon water collected are also set out.

The Council will notice that out of a total estimated population of 20,800, 89.7% are supplied with water from a mains supply whilst 10.3% of the population are served by shallow wells or other means.

The population numbered in the 10.3% are principally resident in the scattered parishes on the east side of the area, in which parishes piped water has never been made available. To a smaller degree some proportion of this figure of 10.3% live in scattered farms, isolated and too far from the nearest point of a water main to enable a supply to be obtained.

To have 90% of a total population served by means of a piped supply has always been looked upon as something of an achievement, especially in a rural area where the properties are so widespread and scattered. There is little doubt that the percentage population on a piped supply in this area compares very favourably with the bulk of rural districts.

The Rural Water and Sewerage Act, 1944, quite clearly pointed the way to the need to make available to farms and scattered groups of properties a piped supply of water and financial aid was offered. This Act was welcomed by your Council and resulted in a scheme being very quickly prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval. In this scheme the Council accepted their responsibilities in full, making provision for the laying of a water main along every public highway in such a manner as to ensure that every single inhabited property in the area had a piped service in the highway at a point nearest to it. After considerable delay and much urging, approval to this scheme was received in May 1949, and a start was made in laying the pipes.

It is as well to remind ourselves that the Council did not need the support of the Rural Water and Sewerage Act to take notice of the need of the 10.3% of the population for a water supply. As long ago as 1935 the Council had prepared a detailed scheme of piped water supplies to serve every parish in the area. It was abandoned by reason of the extremely small grant which was offered by the Government. The Council, disappointed but determined, finally decided that with or without a grant all the

villages in the area should have a piped water supply and re-submitted the scheme to the Ministry of Health for approval in 1938. On this occasion the Council's good intentions came to nought by reason of the unsettled international situation, the Ministry withholding consent. It has, therefore, been a matter of very great satisfaction to the Council that this very necessary provision is now actually in hand. Commencement of the work was made in September and at the 31st December, 9,410 yards of main had been laid.

The purchase of a chlorinating machine was a necessary and wise decision. The necessity for the carrying out of the complete chlorination of all mains seemed to be amply proved in the first stages of the laying of the new mains. Samples taken, even after chlorinating, were found to be unsatisfactory and re-chlorinating of certain sections had to be carried out. The quality of the water without this protection being taken would have been most unsatisfactory.

No other extensions or additions to mains have taken place during the year. All mains were completed on the housing estates in the year 1948. The total length of water mains in your Council's area as at the 31st December, 1949, was 32 miles of which 16 miles were in the statutory area of the York Waterworks Company.

The mains being laid in the new contract are Turners Asbestos Cement pipes with the asbestos cement screwed gland and rubber ring joint. Some initial difficulties have been experienced in getting these joints sufficiently sound to withstand the high pressure test. I believe, however, that there is little doubt that the difficulty is more due to the inexperience of the operators and does not in any way reflect upon the soundness of the joint itself. I believe your Council's decision to lay asbestos cement pipes will prove to be a sound one.

The mains which were laid in 1936 and which were constructed of spun iron pipes have for the past few years given cause for some appreciable anxiety by reason of repeated breakages in the form of a complete severance of the pipe. Examination on each occasion has shown evidence of comparatively deep pitting by external corrosion which has, without doubt, resulted in an appreciable weakening of the strength of the pipe which, coupled with perhaps some slight earth movement, has caused these fractures to occur. The immediate result is expense in the considerable loss of water and in opening out and making good the defective section together with the serious inconvenience to the consumers by comparatively long periods without water, in many cases without warning. It is not often possible in breakages of this kind to give an opportunity to consumers to obtain a supply whilst the main is being made good, first by reason of the continued loss of enormous quantities

of water whilst house-to-house warning proceeds ; secondly by reason of the fact that many of these breakages have occurred during the night when people are in bed and partly by reason of the fact that even if the waste of water was allowed to continue and the people were warned, loss of water at the breakage is so great that no water is available in the house services within a very short radius of the point of collapse. The greater anxiety in this connection is the future. The Council have laid some 8 miles of main in this class of material, these mains being laid to serve the parishes of Lilling, Flaxton, Rawcliffe, Skelton and Stockton-on-Forest. So long as the breakages continue in their present form and frequency, making good the damage will be possible, but the comparatively deep pitting that is obviously taking place may result ultimately in extensive perforations in addition to main fractures and the necessity in such circumstances for the entire relaying of these mains would arise.

This corrosion of spun iron mains laid about the 1936 period is not restricted to your Council's area. It has occurred in the mains of practically every local authority who has laid them in this class of pipe at this period of time. Many local authorities who have laid in the hundreds of miles of pipes have had such extensive corrosion that they have already re-laid miles of main. The question is of such vital concern that the Government has set up a special committee to investigate the causes of this mains failure. The Committee's final report is not yet to hand but it is one which is awaited with much interest.

The length of main in your Council's area fortunately is not such as to give cause for the anxiety which is being felt where considerable lengths of main have been laid. Nevertheless, it is a serious problem which must be borne in mind. At the moment the financial aspect is particularly difficult as the loans taken up for the laying of the original mains are on a 30 year period and in no case where re-laying has had to be resorted to are these loans repaid. In fact, in most cases less than half the loan period has elapsed since laying. The Government will not authorise the taking up of any new loan for the replacement of work in respect of which the original loan or any part of it is outstanding and unless there is some relaxation of this attitude the whole expense will need to be borne out of revenue, which would involve many authorities in a financial burden which would be most severe and unreasonable.

The water supply in your area is obtained at the present time in bulk from two sources, one the York Waterworks Company and, two, the Malton Rural District Council. Both supplies are inclined to hardness and no plumbo-solvent action takes place. The

nature of the supply is constant and no special action or precautions are required under this heading. The result of samples taken for analysis of the water as supplied are shown in the appropriate table.

The water supply of your area during the year has been satisfactory as to quantity and quality in so far as a piped supply is available. The supply of water where a piped supply is not available has been most unsatisfactory as to quantity and quality. In these cases it has not been possible to take any steps to alleviate the position centrally and individual steps have had to be taken for the haulage of water, with and without the assistance of the fire service. Some very appreciable hardship has resulted and is still resulting. No incidences of ill health has been noted due to the unsatisfactory quality of the water, but all persons have been warned where supplies are of doubtful quality that water must be boiled before being consumed.

Bacteriological and Chemical Examination of Samples of Water.

Nature of Supply	No. taken		Result of Analysis		
	Chem. & Bact.	Bact. only	Chem. only	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Mains supply ..	0	11	0	8	3
Stand-pipe supply ..	0	5	0	5	0
Shallow well	1	1	0	2	0

Percentage Analysis of Water Supplies.

Houses with public mains supply direct to house ..	87.8%
stand-pipe supply	1.9%
<hr/>	
Total	89.7%
<hr/>	
Houses with piped borehole supply	1.0%
Houses with spring supply	0.2%
Houses with shallow well supply	9.1%
<hr/>	
Total . . .	10.3%
<hr/>	

Source of Water Supply to each Parish together with the number of houses and population served.

Parish	Total Houses	Total Pop-ulation	Piped Water Supply										Houses supplied by		
			York W.W.C.				Malton R.D.C.				Shal-low wells	Bore-holes	Spri-ngs		
			Direct to Hse.		Stand-pipe		Direct to Hse.		Stand-pipe						
			House	Pop.	House	Pop.	House	Pop.	House	Pop.					
			House	Pop.	House	Pop.	House	Pop.	House	Pop.					
Bossall-with-Buttercrambe	34	127	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	13		
Claxton	44	165	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	28	—		
Clifton Without	959	3602	959	3602	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Earswick	72	272	72	272	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Flaxton	93	350	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	95	19	—	—		
Gate Helmsley	50	190	—	—	—	—	—	49	184	—	50	—	—		
Harton	24	91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	—	—		
Haxby	619	2326	591	2234	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	—		
Heworth Without	154	579	154	579	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Holtby	30	115	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	—	—		
Huntington	954	3583	954	3583	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Lillings Ambo	49	186	—	—	—	—	—	8	30	—	—	—	—		
Murton	114	419	80	301	8	30	—	—	17	65	24	4	—		
New Earswick	616	2315	616	2315	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—		
Osbaldwick	279	1039	279	1039	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Rawcliffe	271	1010	267	995	4	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Sand Hutton	48	181	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Skelton	108	408	52	196	26	98	—	—	—	—	48	—	—		
Stockton-on-Forest	144	542	89	335	22	83	—	—	4	—	26	4	—		
Strensall	324	1219	279	1049	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	—	—		
Towthorpe	35	131	35	131	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	—	—		
Upper Helmsley	12	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Warthill	47	177	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—		
Wigginton	113	416	76	286	—	—	—	—	—	—	47	—	—		
Totals	5193	19500	4503	16917	60	226	57	214	42	160	482	36	13		

Analysis of Bulk Supplies.

Set out below are copies of analytical reports on samples of water taken from the Council's mains distributing bulk supplies from Malton R.D.C. and the York Waterworks Company.

SAMPLE No. 679. STAND-PIPE AT FLAXTON. (MALTON R.D.C. supply).

I have examined the above sample with the following results :—

Average number of bacteria growing on agar after 72 hours incubation at 20–22°C, per 1 ml.	13
Average number of bacteria growing on agar after 72 hours incubation at 37°C, per 1 ml.	2
Coliform bacteria after 48 hours incubation at 37°C, per 100 ml. . .	0

According to the above results, the present condition of this water is satisfactory for public supply (Class 1).

SAMPLE No. 680. STAND-PIPE AT STOCKTON-ON-FOREST.
(YORK WATER).

I have examined the above sample with the following results :—

Average number of bacteria growing on agar after 72 hours incubation at 20–22°C, per 1 ml.	9
Average number of bacteria growing on agar after 72 hours incubation at 37°C, per 1 ml.	2
Coliform bacteria after 48 hours incubation at 37°C, per 100 ml. . .	0

According to the above results, the present condition of this water is satisfactory for public supply (Class 1).

Drainage and Sewerage.

Tables are set out below showing the means of disposing of sewage in each of the parishes in the Council's area and the percentage analysis of the various methods of sewage disposal. Perusal of this table will show that almost 80% of the total population in the area is served by sewerage which is adequate and satisfactory and connected to sewage disposal plant capable of carrying out effective treatment.

There have been no extensions of sewers in the area during the year and no authorisation has been received from the Ministry of Health to proceed with any of the schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal for the several villages in respect of which schemes have been submitted to the Ministry for approval.

Although the figure of 80% of the population served is a very good one for a scattered rural area, nevertheless, the population comprised in the remaining 20% urgently need improved practicability, as in the case of water, of providing adequate sewerage arrangements for all inhabited properties throughout the area or for the small groups of isolated properties. It is, however, very important and very necessary that some adequate system of

sewerage and sewage disposal should be available for each of the villages not at present so served. The villages in this category are Stockton-on-Forest, Holtby, Warthill, Gate Helmsley, Buttercrambe, Bossall, Sand Hutton, Claxton, Harton, Flaxton, Lilling and Towthorpe.

The position with regard to schemes for these villages as at the 31st December, 1949, was that the Ministry of Health had held an Inquiry into the Council's proposals to sewer Lilling and Sheriff Hutton in the area of the Malton Rural District, but no approval had been received. The proposals for the sewerage of Stockton-on-Forest, Gate Helmsley and Claxton had been submitted to the Ministry for approval but no Inquiry had been held or a date specified. The Council have considered, but not forwarded to the Ministry of Health, schemes provisionally prepared for the parishes of Flaxton, Harton, Bossall, Buttercrambe, Holtby, Warthill, Sand Hutton, Upper Helmsley and Towthorpe.

I think that when the Council have finally resolved with the Ministry of Health the extent to which sewerage can be provided in the area there will be some justification for considering the inauguration of a cesspool-emptying service to deal with the isolated properties. Such a service can be a very useful one and can help considerably to mitigate nuisances arising from inadequate sewage disposal from individual and small groups of properties which are incapable of being linked up by reason of cost with a central sewerage system. There is evidence of an increasing need for such a service, but I think that the extent to which sewerage can be provided should be settled before any attempt is made to cost a scheme of this kind for consideration.

Methods of disposal—percentage comparison.

Properties connected to proper sewerage and sewage disposal treatment plants :—

(a)	via Council's sewers to Council's disposal works	43.71%
(b)	via Council's sewers to York City works	.. 23.93%
(c)	Drained to private works designed to produce a satisfactory effluent	.. .. 10.47%
	Total	.. 78.11%

Properties connected to other means of disposal :—

(a)	To old village sewers discharging to water-courses	.. .. 6.87%
(b)	Direct to watercourses with or without tank treatment, or to cesspools, tanks, etc.	.. 15.02%
	Total	.. 21.89%

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

STATISTICS.

Table showing method of disposal in each Parish.

Parish	Total Houses	Council's Sewers to S.D. Works	York City Sewers	Old Village Sewers	Water-courses Tanks, Etc.	Private S.D. Works
Bossall-with-Buttercrambe	34	—	—	—	34	—
Claxton	44	—	—	36	8	—
Clifton Without ..	959	16	935	—	8	—
Earswick	72	32	—	30	10	—
Flaxton	93	—	—	60	33	—
Gate Helmsley ..	50	—	—	33	17	—
Harton	24	—	—	18	6	—
Haxby	619	499	—	37	83	—
Heworth Without	154	55	60	—	39	—
Holtby	30	—	—	13	17	—
Huntington	954	860	—	12	82	—
Lillings Ambo ..	49	—	—	16	33	—
Murton	114	74	—	—	40	—
New Earswick ..	616	68	—	—	4	544
Osballdwick	279	132	101	—	46	—
Rawcliffe	271	98	147	—	26	—
Sand Hutton ..	48	—	—	40	8	—
Skelton	108	85	—	—	23	—
Stockton-on-Forest	144	—	—	40	104	—
Strensall	324	310	—	—	14	—
Towthorpe	35	—	—	—	35	—
Upper Helmsley ..	12	—	—	—	12	—
Warthill	47	—	—	—	47	—
Wigginton	113	41	—	21	51	—
Total ..	5193	2270	1243	356	780	544

Maintenance.

The question of maintenance was dealt with rather fully in the 1947 Report, and was again referred to in general terms in the 1948 Report. I feel that a brief statement is all that need be included in this present report, the position being substantially the same as before.

The various sewage disposal works and pumping stations continued to be maintained by your workmen as a mobile squad or team. During the year a labourer who had left the service of the Council was replaced by a skilled engineer and this has helped considerably to keep the plant in good condition. No serious breakdowns have occurred and even temporary failures are reduced from previous years. I have no hesitation in saying that the fact

that the pumping plant and machinery forming part of your sewerage schemes and disposal plant which have been in continual use for many years is still working satisfactorily is due to the knowledge, care and attention which your workmen have given it.

There has been some difficulty during the year in keeping the distributors working efficiently. The general design is not one of the best available and fairly constant attention is necessary to keep them moving. Where distributors become sluggish it very often has an adverse effect upon the quality of the effluent finally discharged.

There has been no particular difficulty in maintaining the sewers in a free and satisfactory condition. Certain sections have proved troublesome in the area due to extensive inflow of surface water which is not easy to trace. Skelton is particularly prone to this fault and in this village the greater proportion of it enters from properties in the village itself discharging into the old village sewer which was not renewed when the scheme for Skelton was designed on grounds of economy. Nevertheless there is other surface water gaining access on this section.

An appreciable amount of time has been spent by your workmen during the year in clearing stoppages in what might be termed private sewers or private drains to properties in various parts of the district. The recovery of costs in these cases does give rise to many problems.

Public Cleansing.

A Statement under this heading is set out below giving details of the parishes provided with a refuse collection and disposal service differentiating between those parishes dealt with by private contract and those dealt with by your Council's direct labour scheme.

The table shows that out of a population of 19,500 a refuse collection service is provided to 16,628 representing 85%. As with water and sewerage schemes, the percentage of properties provided with this service is very high, bearing in mind the fact that the district is a rural district and that the properties are scattered. Although the 15% of properties not provided with this service is small in relation to the total there is little doubt that the conditions in the villages are such as to justify every consideration being given to extending this service to include them. The inhabitants of these villages have long been accustomed, in their very commendable spirit of independence, to provide for themselves in this connection, but although this is a spirit which can attend upon the multiplicity of disposal arrangements by individual householders they often carry out this work under considerable difficulties.

I do feel that the Council's policy of inviting parishes not enjoying this service to participate is most excellent, but nevertheless in consideration of matters of health the inclusion of these parishes in the scheme should be kept constantly under review.

Parish	Type of Collection	No. of properties	Population	Means of Disposal
				Controlled tipping at
Claxton	Direct Labour	37	141	Towthorpe
Clifton Without . .	"	950	3568	Skelton
Earswick	"	52	196	Towthorpe
Gate Helmsley . .	"	46	176	Towthorpe
Haxby	Private Contract	600	2254	Haxby
Heworth Without . .	Direct Labour	149	560	Towthorpe
Holtby	"	19	72	Towthorpe
Huntington	Private Contract	924	3470	Haxby
Murton	Direct Labour	109	401	Towthorpe
New Earswick . .	Private Contract	604	2271	Haxby
Osbalwick	Direct Labour	268	997	Skelton
Rawcliffe	"	233	877	Skelton
Sand Hutton	"	32	121	Towthorpe
Skelton	"	80	301	Skelton
Strensall	"	241	906	Towthorpe
Wigginton	Private Contract	84	317	Haxby
	Total	4428	16628	

Salvage.

The collection of salvage during the year under review has continued. In the Report for 1948 a table was given of the amount, type and value of salvage collected during the period of operation of the direct labour scheme which in point of fact was only for a period of one month in that year. The table also gave our estimate of the value of salvage which might be expected to be collected during the year 1949. From a similar table set out below it will be seen that the actual value of salvage collected during 1949 falls short of the estimated value by £90. The Council will remember, however, in this connection, the chaotic conditions which existed for some 8 months of 1949 in the market for waste paper which is, as is well known, our best revenue producer. A great number of local authorities at that time ceased to collect and salvage waste paper altogether. I held the belief that the market would recover. Every available inch of storage space was filled to capacity with baled paper and it was only when I could find no further storage accommodation either by sheeting over or under permanent cover that we destroyed paper.

Taking the year as a whole we were able to seek out markets here and there willing to take certain quantities which enabled us to keep the stocks moving. In point of fact it was only necessary to destroy paper collected over a matter of some seven to nine weeks, but unfortunately the state of the market was such that the price fell to a very low level and in spite of our disposing of the bulk of the paper collected there was a very considerable loss in revenue. The position at the end of the year was that there was some evidence that the market was becoming rather easier but prices were still very low.

Considering the circumstances of this particularly bad period, I think that the salvage returns for the year under review are reasonably good, especially bearing in mind that they only fell short of the estimated revenue by £90. I have every confidence that with the co-operation of the public in the coming year we shall be able to reach our estimated figure and perhaps exceed it.

SALVAGE SOLD DURING YEAR.

Direct Labour—	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.		£	s.	d.
Waste Paper ..	50	15	3	0	..	209	19	6
*Rags & Woollens..	4	2	3	21	..	79	13	2
Scrap Metal ..	2	7	1	0	..	5	18	2
Bones		15	2	21	..	4	7	11
Kitchen Waste ..	48	0	0	0	..	36	0	0
Bottles		Ten dozen.			..	1	1	0
*B.O.T. Allowance for increased sales					..	33	15	9
					Total ..	£370	15	6

Kitchen Waste.

The kitchen waste service has continued as before. Collections arrangements are generally sound and in addition to providing much needed animal feeding stuffs are continuing to produce a certain amount of revenue.

Controlled Tipping.

The tipping of refuse on low-lying land has continued throughout the year. Attention has been given to some complaints of rat infestation and nuisance from flies, and appropriate treatments have been carried out. The blowing about of paper which householders place in refuse is a source of nuisance and annoyance and it is unfortunate that this cannot be kept separate by the householder when a salvage collection is carried out at all houses weekly.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Complaints—

Number of complaints received	..	..	..	667
Number of complaints investigated	..	..	..	659
Number where action taken	..	..	..	644
Number where no action taken	..	..	..	23

Table of Notices served—

Notices served under the—				<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
Public Health Act, 1936	..	..	..	22	5
Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	3	1
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	..	..	..	1	—
Water Act, 1945	..	..	..	2	—

Tabular Statement of Inspections—

Ashplaces and Ashbins	..	..	..	..	9
Cesspools and Sewage Tanks	..	..	..	..	68
Closets : Water	..	..	..	..	23
Pail	..	..	..	..	8
Privies	..	..	..	..	15
Complaints	..	..	..	..	659
Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	86
Dairies, Milkshops and Milk Stores	..	..	..	..	62
Drains : Inspected	..	..	..	..	415
Tested	..	..	..	..	388
Factories	..	..	..	..	159
Food Shops : Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	6
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	3
Cooked Meats	..	..	..	..	—
Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	13
Green Grocers	..	..	..	..	4
Grocers' Shops	..	..	..	..	6
Ice-cream Premises	..	..	..	..	8
Restaurant Kitchens	..	..	..	..	2
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	137
Other Food Shops	..	..	..	..	3
Food Inspections	..	..	..	..	9
Meat Inspections	..	..	..	..	118
Housing : Houses Repairable	..	..	..	..	54
Houses not Repairable	..	..	..	..	24
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	1
Infectious Disease Investigation	..	..	..	..	65
Meetings, Interviews and Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	..	..	565
Nuisances found	..	..	..	..	25
Offensive Trade Premises	..	..	..	..	136
Outworkers	..	..	..	..	8
Rats and Mice Destruction	..	..	..	..	42
Reinspections : Housing	..	..	..	..	49
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	77
Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	—

Samples :	Food & Drugs Act	..	..	..	1
	Bact. examinations	..	..	..	2
	Resax. Test	..	..	..	1
	Water	..	..	..	41
	Effluents	..	..	..	5
Scabies	..	..	..	..	—
Schools	..	..	..	..	8
Streets, Roads, Courts	..	..	..	..	38
Tips	..	..	..	..	138
Temporary Buildings	..	..	..	..	53
Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	11
Wells	..	..	..	..	44
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	248
Workshops and Workplaces	..	..	..	..	5
Requisitioning of Houses	..	..	..	..	3
Buildings :	In course of erection	..	..	..	1632
	Sites	..	..	..	122
	Special Visits	..	..	..	68
	Building Licences	..	..	..	83
	Foundations	..	..	..	159
	Completed Houses	..	..	..	98
	Completed other than Houses	..	..	..	57
Contravention	..	..	..	..	43
Defects Found	..	..	..	..	9
Dykes and Watercourses	..	..	..	..	176
Dangerous Structures	..	..	..	..	51
Land Surveys	..	..	..	..	64
Sewage Disposal and Sewerage Works	..	..	..	..	182
Sewers	..	..	..	..	144
Temporary Buildings	..	..	..	..	122
Ambulance	..	..	..	..	15
Council House Property	..	..	..	..	1075
Office Maintenance	..	..	..	..	8
Petroleum Stores	..	..	..	..	49
Post-War Housing	..	..	..	..	165
Refuse Collection and Salvage	..	..	..	..	172
Rural Housing Survey	..	..	..	..	14
Prosecutions	..	..	..	..	2
Town Planning	..	..	..	..	27
Footpaths and Rights of Way	..	..	..	..	36
Street Naming	..	..	..	..	30
Sewerage Survey	..	..	..	..	82
Water Inquiry	..	..	..	..	44
Street Lighting	..	..	..	..	16
Playing Fields	..	..	..	..	37
Exhumation	..	..	..	..	1
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	2
Rivers and Streams	..	..	..	..	12
Total					8,642

Shops Act, 1934.

The tabular statement of inspections will show that some visits have been made to shops in the area during the year. No action has been found necessary to be taken under this Act, the number of shops being small and arrangements generally being reasonably good.

Smoke Abatement.

No action has been necessary under this heading during the year. The industries in the district are of the lighter variety and there is no heavy industry as such. The question of smoke, therefore, is not a matter about which any complaints have been received during the year.

Schools.

The statistics as to schools are again given in the schedule below. The progress with regard to the provision of water supplies has not enabled advantage to be taken of the scheme now in hand so far as schools without an adequate supply are concerned. There would appear to be little doubt that, as and when water supplies are available and when the Council receive approval to the sewerage schemes at present before the Ministry of Health, the Education Authority will include in their schools maintenance programme the necessary works required to provide proper facilities to those schools at present without them.

School	Situation	No. of Pupils	Sanitary Accommodation	Water Supply
Canon A. R. Lee Modern	Rawcliffe Lane, Clifton Without	303	Water-closets Lav. basins	York Water-works Co.
Clifton Jun. School	do.	490	do.	do.
C. of E. School, ..	Village Street, Flaxton	27	Pail closets Lav. basins	Malton R.D.C. mains
Harton School ..	Village Street Harton	23	Pail closets Wash-bowls	Nil
Haxby School ..	Village Street Haxby	103	Water-closets Lav. basins	York Water-works Co.
Huntington School	Strensall Road	125	do.	do.
J.R.V.T. Sen. Sch...	New Earswick	454	do.	do.
J.R.V.T. Jun. Sch...	New Earswick	277	do.	do.
Osboldwick School ..	Osboldwick	71	do.	do.
Sand Hutton Sch. ..	Sand Hutton	55	Pail closets Wash-bowls	Nil
Skelton School ..	Skelton	27	Water closets Lav. basins	York water-works Co.
Stockton-on-Forest School	Village Street	47	Privy Lav. basins	do.
Strensall School ..	Strensall	104	Water-closets Lav. basins	do.
Warthill School ..	Warthill	31	Pail closets Wash-bowls	Shallow well
Wigginton School ..	Mill Lane	29	Pail closets Lav. basins	York water-works Co.

Factories Act, 1937.

The position with regard to factories in the area is substantially the same as in 1948. There have been two additions to the list namely that of Messrs. Armstrong's Patents Ltd., who have now established a factory on the aerodrome together with one bakehouse which has been established in Huntington. A tabular statement of visits made under this heading is set out below. No complaints have been received from H.M. Inspectors of Factories during the year nor from any person connected with the factories themselves.

<i>Mechanical</i>				<i>Non-Mechanical</i>			
Motor vehicle repairs	..	6		Dripping making	..	1	
Joinery Works	.. ..	5		Grease extractors	..	2	
Firewood cutting	.. ..	1					—
Leather tanning	.. ..	2		Total	..	3	
Letterpress printing	..	1					—
Brick making	.. ..	2					
Brewery	.. ..	1					
Dismantling railway wagons		1					
Scientific instrument makers		1					
Concrete block making	..	1					
Upholstery filling	..	1					
Paper baling	.. ..	1					
Laundry	.. ..	1					
Fat refining	.. ..	1					
Bakery	.. ..	3					
Engineering Works	..	1					
		—					
Total	..	30					
		—					

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>In- spections</i>	<i>Notices</i>	<i>Prose- cutions</i>
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority ..	3	.. 136	.. —	.. —
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) above in which Sec. 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority	30	.. 23	.. —	.. —
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority	—	.. —	.. —	.. —

Outworkers.

The total number of persons on the register of outworkers in the area, that is those persons undertaking employment in the home, is 4. Little supervision is required in these cases as all are engaged in button carding.

HOUSING.

The statement required by the Ministry of Health as to houses inspected and action taken is again included in the Report. Action both under the Housing Act and the Public Health Act is shown. No cases arose which require special comment. The position with regard to the carrying out of repairs is still not easy. The bulk of labour available is heavily engaged upon the construction of new houses and this necessitates in many cases appreciable delay in getting works of repair undertaken.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year—

(1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts ..	78
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	127
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included in (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932	nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	14
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to in the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	64

2. Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices—

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or by their Officers	33
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3. Action under Statutory Powers—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.. .. .	3

(2)	Number of dwellings which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices—	
(a)	By Owners	3
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owner	—
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	28
(2)	Number of dwellings in respect of which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices	
(a)	By Owners	27
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owner	1
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	14
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
(3)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
(4)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	} No record
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ..	
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	} No record
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	39
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	221
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps to abate the overcrowding	nil
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding which it is considered desirable to report ..	nil

Overcrowding.

A survey as to overcrowding has not been carried out during the year. It does appear to me, as submitted to the County Housing Advisory Committee, that to undertake any extensive and detailed survey in connection with overcrowding is pointless unless and until the Local Authorities are prepared to make overcrowding an offence except under licence in accordance with the Housing Act. It is true that it may give some indication as to the likely housing requirements in the area, but with a waiting list of almost 600 'live' cases it would seem necessary at the present time to look further ahead than is necessary to meet the requirements of these cases.

I have suggested that the terms of the Housing Act should be enforced and all persons who overcrowd houses except under licence be dealt with as the Act envisaged. It is, however, quite clear that the Housing Advisory Committee would be both impracticable and unreasonable to adopt such a policy. The table above, therefore, sets out those cases which have come to our notice in our general housing work and activities and in no way gives an overall picture of the situation.

I have no reason to believe that serious overcrowding exists in the area. On the contrary, I am inclined to the view that a detailed survey would show very little more than is evident in perusing the housing applications at present lodged with your Council.

POST-WAR HOUSING.

The Council's allocation of houses from the Ministry of Health for 1949, was 100 houses. Of these, 20 were for erection by private owners and 80 for erection by the Council.

The Council let contracts for 69 houses during the year and agreed to issue 12 to the Joseph Rowntree Village Trust, out of their allocation. Owing to delay on the part of the Trust a contract was not let for these 12 houses and the allocation was lost to the area.

As at the 1st January, 1949, 84 houses of the 1948 programme were in course of construction and 69 new houses of the 1949 programme were commenced. Of this total of 153 houses, 78 were completed during the year and 75 were under construction at the end of the year.

The 78 houses completed during the year brought the total of units of accommodation provided by the Council since the end of the War to 281 as follows :— 190 brick houses, 32 Airey houses, 50 Tarran prefabricated houses and 9 converted Nissen huts.

The position, parish by parish is set out below :—

North Moor, Huntington.

The first portion of this estate comprising 122 sites, is now substantially built up. At the end of the year only 16 sites remained to be built upon.

Houses in course of erection on 1st January	..	24
Houses completed previous to 1st January	..	78
Further contracts let	.. .. .	4
Houses completed during the year	.. ..	16
Houses in course of erection on 31st December	..	12

Northfields, Strensall.

Contracts were let for 12 more houses on this estate and these are being built in the centre of the estate, thus completing this portion. Sites remain only on the cul-de-sacs, numbering 36 in all.

Houses in course of erection on 1st January	..	4
Houses completed prior to 1st January	.. ..	34
Further contracts let	.. .. .	12
Houses completed during the year	.. ..	4
Houses in course of erection on 31st December	..	12

Skelton.

No further houses have been built on the Burtree Lane, but a block of three was commenced on the cleared site facing the pond.

Houses completed prior to 1st January	.. ..	14
Further contracts let	.. .. .	3
Houses under construction on 31st December	..	3

Calf Close, Haxby.

Considerable development took place during the year on this estate when 58 houses were completed.

Houses in course of erection on 1st January	..	56
Houses completed prior to 1st January	.. ..	12
Further contracts let	.. .. .	50
Houses completed during year	.. ..	58
Houses in course of erection at 31st December	..	48

Stockton-on-Forest.

Reference was made in the Report for 1948 to the fact that the Council had decided to go forward with the compulsory acquisition of a site for housing development. Owing to difficulties arising from the change of ownership of this site the Compulsory Purchase Order was not confirmed until December and a start could not be made before the end of the year.

Claxton.

Work has not yet commenced on this site of 20 houses due to the lack of essential services of water and sewerage. Approval having been forthcoming to the Council's Regional Water Scheme it is anticipated that work will begin in 1950.

Lillings Ambo.

Work was not commenced on this site due to the fact that the Council had no allocation of houses remaining. It is hoped that work will be commenced shortly on the joint sewerage scheme with Sheriff Hutton and thus solve the difficulty of sewage disposal from the 8 houses proposed.

Gate Helmsley.

As at Claxton, work has not yet been commenced on this site, principally due to the lack of water and sewerage facilities and also to the fact that the Council's allocation of houses had been expended. It is anticipated that this village will be served with water during 1950 when it will be possible to make a start on erecting houses

Buttercrambe.

The site for 12 houses has been acquired but here again we are hampered by lack of water and sewerage facilities. In addition in this village there is no electricity supply. It should be possible to commence building houses, however, during the summer of 1950 when the water mains are laid to this village.

Private Building.

21 private houses were erected during the year, of which 12 were bungalows erected by the Joseph Rowntree Village Trust. The total number of private houses built since the end of the War is 105.

Housing Allocations.

I made some reference in the Report last year to the fact that during 1948, 112 houses were completed and occupied and 243 new applications were received. This was rather more than twice the number of families re-housed.

During the year under review 78 houses were completed and yet 155 new applications were received, bringing the total on the list at the end of the year to 548.

The increase of applications over families re-housed tends to be disappointing and discouraging. It appears that however much progress is made the overall position is deteriorating. I think that so far as this area is concerned, the movement of populations into the Council's area is to a large extent responsible for this state of affairs. Even if this be so, presumably it must be accepted in the spirit of all authorities providing the maximum accommodation within their capacity, ultimately resulting in the problem being minimised.

I dealt with the working of the Council's Priority Scheme fairly fully in the last Report. I think it is not necessary to comment further in the present statement other than to say that the scheme has continued to operate successfully, that there has been little complaint and that the ratepayers in the area feel that it is reasonably equitable in its operation.

The allocation of special priority to agricultural workers has continued. It is, however, disturbing to find that there is a tendency for agricultural workers to make every endeavour to leave the industry, in some cases immediately and in others comparatively shortly after, being re-housed. If it were not for the limited control exercised by your Council in this connection the allocation of special priority to this class of worker would seem to indicate that more harm than good was being done in the overall attempt to provide sound housing accommodation for agricultural workers in the hope of retaining them and maintaining their interest in the agricultural field.

The allocation of houses is analysed below :—

[illegible]

Single Bedroom Bungalows.

During the year the Council made a start on the provision of single bedroom bungalows, and at the end of the year eight were in course of erection, whilst an extension of this number was contemplated during 1950. The primary object of this provision is that of enabling aged pensioners to obtain accommodation more suitable to their needs and finances and at the same time leaving family accommodation available for reducing the general housing need.

It does seem quite possible that, whilst giving priority to aged persons for whom far too little appears to have been done in past years, the possibility of making such accommodation available to other persons for whom it would be suitable and which might avoid expenditure of money and materials on larger houses should not be lost sight of.

Housing Act, 1949.

The inauguration of this Act took place during the year under review. The extent and scope of the Act was rather surprising. A very important difference would appear to be that the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926, which the present Act was largely put forward to replace, restricted the making of grants to agricultural workers or persons of substantially similar economic conditions, and whilst it did not preclude an owner or occupier from obtaining a grant, it limited the making of a grant to properties which were occupied by tenants or owners who could not reasonably be expected to meet or pay a rental in excess of that normally paid by agricultural workers. The present Act, however, makes no such restriction in the making of grants to owner-occupiers nor does it give any guidance to the Local Authority as to the type of properties they might consider to be suitable for consideration.

At this early stage it does appear that the local authority could themselves agree to make a grant and recommend the same to the Ministry of Health for approval to the owner of a modern house who wished to improve the property by the addition of an extra bathroom, bedrooms or similar accommodation. It also appears that the local authority are similarly free to agree to make grants to owners of similar houses which are let or owners of estates of comparatively modern houses. It would, therefore, appear to be one of the first essentials in any consideration given to this Act to define and establish a principle for adoption. To deal with applications individually on their merits is always difficult in the absence of a defined policy if reasonable consistency of administration is to be achieved. It may well be that as we become better acquainted with the Act and obtain further information about it the position may be made more clear than it is at the moment.

One would have thought that the Act would have been rather more practical if at any rate during its early stages it had been restricted to grants being made available to improvements to houses which, were it not possible to obtain a grant, would be considered under the Housing Act to be not repairable at a reasonable cost and, therefore, likely to be lost to the housing needs of the district and country generally. No applications have been submitted, however, during the year under review and the position has not arisen for some definite operational procedure to be adopted.

Playing Fields.

There have been no changes during the current year in the provision of playing field facilities in the area. The Council's policy is unchanged from that of previous years, namely that it is their desire where there is a necessity for the provision of open space for recreation and for the establishment of community life for it to be made available.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

In the last Annual Report I referred to the uncertainty arising in connection with the supervision of milk supplies due to an appointed day not having been fixed for the take over of milk production by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The date was fixed during the year under review and the supervision of milk production passed to the Ministry on the 1st October. To the end of the year we have not been contacted by the persons appointed by the Ministry to deal with the inspection and supervision of premises nor have we heard who is the responsible officer in the district in which your Council's area lies. We have had reason to forward several complaints as to unsatisfactory milk supplies to the appropriate office of the Ministry but we have not received other than acknowledgments to our communications and no information as to action taken. No doubt when the scheme begins to operate more fully we shall receive both information and full co-operation.

The dairies in the Council's area which still remain the responsibility of the District Council have continued to receive visits and inspections and details of these are set out in the tabular statement below. It will probably be wise for the time being to take rather more samples from retail purveyors in order to check the quality of milk being made available.

Retail purveyors	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Number of inspections made	..	..	..	..	..	..	143
Samples of milk taken	..	..	..	..	..	..	14

Licences issued under Special Designations :—

Dealer's Licence to retail ' Accredited ' Milk	..	..	1
„ „ „ ' Pasteurised ' Milk	..	..	7
„ „ „ ' T.T.' Milk	..	..	7
Pasteurising Plants	..	..	1

The Council do not collect fees in respect of the Dealers' licences to retail Designated milks, as they feel that no restriction should be put in the way of traders who wish to sell a graded milk.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The two slaughterhouses within your Council's area used for the killing and dressing of emergency cases and fallen stock have continued to be supervised. A schedule of the carcasses inspected and condemned is set out below in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

These slaughterhouses seem to serve a useful purpose in that they have mobile teams available at short notice to deal with any farm stock suffering accident or injury. Many of these cases are quite fit and sound for food, although many others are found to be quite unsuitable for this purpose. Carcasses of this kind cannot be forwarded to the central slaughterhouse as they often occur when the slaughterhouse is closed and not available. The arrangements seem to work very satisfactorily and there is full co-operation between your Council's staff and the staff of the City Authority who supervise slaughtering at the central premises.

There have been a number of inspections made of shop premises and canteens and certain quantities of tinned and other food have been condemned and disposed of as being unfit for sale.

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ..	23	65	9	10	10
Number inspected	23	65	9	10	10
All diseases except T.B.:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	14	2	3	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	5	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with diseases other than T.B.	34%	29%	22%	30%	10%
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	10	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	1	4	0	0	0
Percentage of number in- spected, affected with tuberculosis	17%	21%	0	0	0

ERECTION OF NEW BUILDINGS.

A statement of the plans deposited during the year under review is again set out below. There have been the usual number of exempted buildings but it will be noticed that many more plans have been submitted of dwelling houses intended to be erected by private enterprise as and when permission is obtainable and for alterations and additions to property.

The amount of work carried out during the year upon alterations, and extensions to dwelling houses has been appreciable and the heaviest since before the war. They largely comprise enlargements of sculleries, additional bedroom accommodation and improved facilities in rooms and parlours by the construction of bay windows, etc. There is no doubt that the continuance of the free limit of £100 has proved to be responsible for much of this additional work. There is little doubt that if at any time control of building ceases to operate there will be an immediate spate of private building.

There is nothing worthy of special comment in connection with the administration of the Streets and Buildings Bye-laws during the year. Very many visits of inspection have been made and many defects and constructional contraventions of the Bye-laws noted which have been made good. No legal proceedings were taken during the year although some warnings were issued.

The standard of building throughout the area has on the whole been quite good although some rough work has been noticed in many cases due to the limited experience of some of the building operatives. It cannot be said that there has been much jerry work or work of a deliberate low standard.

Plans were deposited for the following buildings :—

Dwelling-houses — Local Authority	98
„ — Private enterprise	92
Exempted buildings (greenhouses, garages, etc.)	132
Alterations and extensions to property	102
Agricultural buildings	12
Business and Factory premises	16
Layouts	1

Plan Printing.

It has been estimated that again just over 300 prints have been prepared during the year. These prints cover a wide range of subjects from water and sewerage to plans required in connection with the purchase of land by the District Valuer. We have cleared up the difficulties with the Ordnance Survey Department and we

have now their full authority to take copies under certain conditions of Ordnance Survey sheets. This is of very great help and assistance in dealing with matters which arise frequently in this department. The avoidance of delay is no small benefit in connection with the printing of plans within the office and there must also be an appreciable saving in postages and the purchase of prints.

Building Licensing.

Applications for the issue of licences for building works have been received at a fairly constant rate throughout the year. Licences were issued during the year amounting to £11,826 for repairs and alterations, and £31,672 for new houses.

The Council continued during the year to give careful consideration to the authorisation of works which are necessary and urgent and the conditions for the issue of licences as laid down by the Government have been very carefully borne in mind in all cases.

As has been the practice since the inception of licensing, all applications before submission to the Council have been fully investigated, and the site of all proposed works inspected and the applicant interviewed. In addition to the supervision of the work in progress there is a general check kept to ensure that the work authorised by your Council is not exceeded.

One or two contraventions have been brought to the notice of the Council but it was properly considered that warnings in these cases were sufficient and adequate and it has not been considered necessary to take legal proceedings.

November of the year under review brought with it the Government's decision to reduce the number of licences which could be issued to private persons to build their own houses from 10% to 5%. This was not considered by your Council to be a very acceptable decision. It was generally felt that any persons who were financially in a position to build their own houses thereby reducing the national and rate expenditure upon grants in aid as is the case in the building of houses to let should be granted licences. There continues to be many such cases whose housing need is just as urgent and as great as many of those awaiting re-housing by the Local Authority who are not in such a position. Your Council, however, accepted the decision with good grace and operated it in accordance with the instructions received.

The Council have once again during the year followed the Ministry's recommendations closely in the allocation of licences to persons to build their own houses. They have, except in one or two cases where agricultural priority was pressed, limited them to

persons who were without homes of their own and who were urgently in need of housing accommodation. All cases were carefully checked and investigated and every effort made to establish that the need was a genuine one, and allocations were made in accordance with priority fixed on the basis of the urgency as confirmed by such investigation.

In one or two cases there was a certain amount of delay in commencement of work but no licences were lost during the year by reason of this other than those issued to the Joseph Rowntree Village Trust, which have been mentioned earlier in the Report.

Town and Country Planning.

I commented at some length in the last Report upon the procedure under Town and Country Planning Act. The administration of the Act which in 1948 passed to the County Council has operated quite well during this first full year of the new arrangements. There is most excellent co-operation between the Planning Department of the County Council and the District Council and this has helped very considerably in the effective and smooth working of the scheme.

I expressed the view last year that the delegation of powers to the District Council with an over-riding authority of a Central Planning Committee to amend or reverse decisions where it was felt necessary to do so would be the most simple and effective method of exercising planning control in the very extensive area of the County Authority. I still hold that view but in expressing it, it is proper that I should acknowledge the courtesy and interest of the County Planning Officer and his staff in the needs of this area and to emphasise that their constant readiness to co-operate fully by consultation, inspection and investigation has resulted in a very effective administration of the Town Planning Act within your area.

There have been no Appeals against decisions during the year and no other action worthy of special comment. We look forward with interest to the Development Plan now being prepared.

There appears to be a tendency amongst Planning Authorities to look upon this Plan as likely to be a simple outline plan leaving full scope for development to be detailed as and when an indication of the development needs arise. I have not found myself in agreement with this view. It is true to some extent that the requirements and needs of developers vary and change considerably from time to time and whilst I do not advocate necessarily a stereotyped and fixed plan I do feel that one of the first essentials of good planning is to indicate the type and nature of development which is considered to be desirable in the best planning interests,

in accordance with the existing development amenities and services, and to lay down general suggestions for this purpose must serve not only as a plan to aim at and follow but also as a guide to those contemplating development as well as those responsible for the provision of services.

I referred last year to the unfortunate difficulty associated with applications for sites for industrial development. This in itself is evidence of the need to embody in the Plan provision for matters of this kind and to see that other development is not only in the right place but in harmony with it and what is important in my view, if planning is to succeed, is to see that sites can be acquired and if land cannot be obtained by negotiation it must be made available through the local authority by compulsion if necessary.

